Setting up a National Institute for Sugar Technology

7651. SHRI K. R. JAYADEVAPPA: will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government for setting up another National Institute for Sugar Technology, as there is already one such Institute at Kanpur; and

(b) if so, whether Government will consider the request of Karnataka Government in setting up the similar Institute at Mandya in Karnataka, where sugarcane is the major product?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Apart from the already established National Sugar Institute at Kanpur, a National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology is presently under consctruction at Mau in U.P..

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Sugar Mills in Gujarat

7652. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills set up in Gujarat State at present:

(b) whether Government have any proposal to promote cooperative sugar mills in the State:

(c) if so, the number of sugar mills proposed to be set up in the State during the remaining period of the Eighth Plan on cooperative basis; and

(d) thhe details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) As on 31-1-95, there were 18 installed sugar factories in the State of Gujarat.

(b) to (d) As on 31.1.95, no proposals for the setting up of a new sugar mill in the State of Gujarat was pending consideration in the Ministry of Food. The number of new licences to be issued for setting up of new sugar factories during the current plan period would depend upon various factors, like balance capacity available for licensing, availability of sugarcane/potential for development of sugarcane, financial viability of the projects, etc.

Buffer Stocks of Foodgrains

7653. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the national requirements of buffer food stocks;

(b) if so, what quantities of foodgrains must be stored as buffer stocks; and

(c) details of buffer stocks being held?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Buffer stocking Policy is an important plank of the National Food Policy. The minimum levels of stocks to be maintained in the central pool on different dates during 8th Five Year Plan are as under:—

(Qty. in Million Tonnes)

Date	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st. April	10.8	3.7	14.5
1st. July	9.2	13.1	22.3
1st. Oct.	6 0	10 6	16 6
1st. Jan.	7.7	7.7	15.4

(c) The stock of rice and wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st April, 1995 was as under:—

(Qty. in Million Tonnes)

Rice	Wheat	Total
18.08	8.72	26.80

Soft Loans for Sugarcane Development

7654. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans on soft terms for sugarcane development and modernisation of sugar factories are available from the Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, how much money was disbursed from the Sugar Development Fund to Andhra Pradesh in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) whether Government are encouraging opening of new sugar factories in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of amounts disbursed from the Sugar Development Fund for modernisation/sugarcane development during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Sugarcane Devolopment	Modernisation
1992-93	144.87	2035.38
1993-94	172.44	1084.06
1994-95	63.77	..

(c) and (d) During the Sugar seasons 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (October—September) upto 31-1-95, 15 letters of intent have been issued by the Ministry of Industry for setting up of new sugar mills in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Declaration of Gangavathi Sugars Ltd. as Sick Unit

7655. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Gangavathi Sugars Ltd. a joint sector undertaking situated in Raichur District in Karnataka which has been declared sick since 1990 has been referred to BIFR for a rehabilitation package;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been accumulated liabilities on the company to the extent of Rs. 13 crores towards payment of arrears to the farmers for sugarcane already supplied and that the Company has in stock sugar worth Rs. 10.6 crores for disposal; and

(c) whether any request has been received by the Central Government from the State Government of Karnataka for one time exemption from paying levy sugar solely for reviving this sick unit which otherwise has got a good potential, if so, Government's reaction to the request?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Karnataka, Gangavathi Sugar Ltd. has been declared sick since 1990 and rehabilitation package is under consideration of the BIFR. The unit has to pay to the farmers Rs. 13 crores for the cane already crushed and is having a stock of sugar worth Rs. 10.5 crores.

(c) The Government of Karnataka has requested exemption for the sugar factory from paying levy sugar during the current year and the request is under examination.